BY ORDER OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

LIBRARY

WEYMOUTH

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

FOR YEAR ENDING

31st December, 1942.

BY

M. J. SAUNDERS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.,

Medical Officer,

Weymouth Port Health Authority.

Telegram Printing Works, Weymouth.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30268886

WEYMOUTH
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Weymouth Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of the operations of the Weymouth Port Health Authority for the year 1942.

Owing to the present emergency, instructions were issued by the Minister of Health on 11th January, 1940 (Circular 1937) that having regard to the desirability of reducing the number of records to be kept and avoiding as far as possible the disclosure of information relating to the movements of ships, the requirements set out in Memo. 204/S.A. with regard to the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be modified, and any permanent arrangements which have been fully described in previous Annual Reports, and have not been altered, may be omitted from the Report for 1939. The Minister also suggests that the Report should not be published, a small number of copies being reproduced for the necessary minimum circulation to the Authority and their Officers and to the Ministry.

My Report for 1942 is subject to the same restrictions, and in view of these requirements it will be observed that, in comparison with Reports prior to 1939, the various tables have been considerably altered, and the bulk of the letterpress has been omitted.

Members of the Authority who wish to have fuller information of the Port Health Regulations as they apply to the Port of Weymouth will find full details in my Report for the year 1938 and previous years.

I would like to express to the Chairman and Members of the Authority my appreciation of their courtesy and consideration during the year, and I am much indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. H. Smith, for his help in compiling this Report, and for the efficient manner in which he has discharged his duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. SAUNDERS,

Port Medical Officer.

15th February, 1943.

Constitution of Port Health Authority.

The Port was permanently constituted a Port Sanitary District by the Local Government Board on October 1st, 1897.

The Weymouth Port Health Authority consists of fifteen members chosen by the respective riparian Authorities as follows:—

Seven by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis.

Four by the Urban District Council of Portland.

Two by the Rural District Council of Dorchester.

Two by the Rural District Council of Wareham and Purbeck.

Limits of Jurisdiction.

"A line drawn due South from the seaward extremity of the common boundary of the parishes of Puncknowle and Abbotsbury to the nearest point in the seaward boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth, a line drawn from such last-mentioned point and thereafter following the seaward boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth to the point at which the said boundary is intersected by a line coincident with the common boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth and Poole, and a line drawn from such last-mentioned point, and thereafter following the common boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth and Poole to its termination at St. Alban's Head in the parish of Worth Matravers; together with the waters of the said Port of Weymouth within such limits, and all docks, basins, harbours, creeks, channels, roads, bays, and streams within the aforesaid limits, and the place or places which may from time to time be appointed as the Customs boarding station or stations for such part of the said port, and the place or places for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for such part of the said Port, under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease issued under the authority of the Statute in that behalf, and for the purposes of any such regulations as aforesaid, shall also extend to any ship which in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder, shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or shall be on its way hither."

Apportionment of Expenses.

The Town Council of the Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis and the Urban District Council of Portland each contribute according to the full rateable value of their districts. The Councils of the Rural Districts of Wareham and Purbeck and Dorchester contribute according to one-half the rateable value of their riparian parishes.

TABLE A.

I.—Ships inspected in the Port during the year 1942.

By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.	Number reported to be defective.	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
7	63	10	4	3

TABLE B.

II.—Omitted during present emergency.

III.—Source of Water Supply.

Merchant ships requiring water are supplied from a water boat, and from hydrants fitted at the quaysides, at Weymouth and Portland.

IV.—Port Health Regulations, 1933.

A description of the application of these Regulations is omitted, but they are fully dealt with in my Report for 1938.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	Number of Cases during the year. Passengers.	Crew.	Number of Vessels concerned.
Scabies	—	2	1

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease.	Number of Cases during the year. Passengers.	Crew.	Number of Vessels concerned.
Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Scabies	—	1	1

V.—Measures Against Rodents.

These have been fully described in Reports prior to 1939.

Rats destroyed during the year.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats destroyed.	Number examined.	Infected with Plague.
53	1	0

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats destroyed.	Number examined.	Infected with Plague.
339	0	0

TABLE G.

Not applicable for the year 1942.

TABLE H.

No Deratisation Certificates, or Deratisation Exemption Certificates, were issued during the year 1942.

VI.—Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear & tear.	Dirt, Vermin & other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ...	48	—	10	21
Other Nations	15	—	—	4
Totals	63	—	10	25

VII.—Food Inspection.

No food cargo has been landed within the area of the Port during 1942.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, or the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1939.

Visits were made to the foreshores under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, but, in no instance, was any of the prohibited shellfish found being gathered for sale to the public.

Weymouth Port Health Authority.

Portland Harbour,

Dorset,

January 9th, 1943.

To Dr. M. J. Saunders,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the requirements of Art. XXVII. (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, of the Ministry of Health, I herewith submit particulars of my work, during 1942, as Port Health and Food Inspector, to the Weymouth Port Health Authority.

Twenty-two ships were examined at Weymouth, and 41 at Portland, making a total of 63 during the year.

Two hundred and eighty-nine other ships, principally from coastwise, also called at the Port, for short periods.

Defective, or insanitary, conditions were found in 10 of the vessels examined, and in four of these I was able to ascertain, by re-inspections, that the work required had been satisfactorily carried out.

Nature of Inspections made during the year 1942.

Total Number of Vessels Inspected...	63
Re-inspections after the giving of Notices	7
Visits in connection with the P.H. (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934	11
Visits in connection with the Deratisation of Ships, under the Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933	33
Total	114

Number and Results of Notices Served.

The following table shews the number of notices served during the year, and the number which I have found, from subsequent examinations, to have been satisfactorily complied with:—

	Notices served.	Notices complied with.
Informal	10	4
Statutory	0	0

Six of the nuisances dealt with in previous Annual Reports were found to have been satisfactorily abated, when the ships concerned re-visited the Port, during 1942.

Food Inspection.

No food cargo was landed within the area of the Port during 1942.

I wish to again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Port Health Authority for the support and consideration which I have received from them during the year. Also to the Officers of H.M. Customs and Excise, and the Shipping Agents, for their assistance, which has, at all times, been willingly accorded to me.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE H. SMITH,

Port Health and Food Inspector.